

R E M A R K S

The original claims 1-8 have been amended to define the invention over the cited references. New claims 9 and 10 dependent upon claim 4 have been added. New independent claims 11-13 have also been added.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Trabert (US 4,597,803). The amended claim 1 defines thereover by reciting *inter alia*:

“...the structure is configured for receiving a shielding skin, said shielding skin being made separately from said structure and covering the structure at least partially...”

While the Trabert reference discloses a motor vehicle front end component (1), it does not disclose nor suggest a structure configured for receiving a shielding skin made separately and covering the component at least partially. Thus, Trabert does not anticipate the present invention as recited in amended claim 1.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carbone (US 3,744,835) in view of Takeuchi (US 5,780,125). The amended claim 1 defines thereover by reciting *inter alia*:

“...the structure comprising:
at least one bumper cross-member,
a grille...”

While Carbone discloses an automobile bumper having a honeycomb core (16), it does not disclose nor suggest a structure having a bumper cross-

member and a grille made integrally in one piece. As shown in Figures 1-3, Carbone discloses only air intake openings (15), which openings (15) are devoid of a grille. Carbone teaches to make the bumper entirely with a honeycomb structure (see Figures 1-3).

Takeuchi discloses a bumper of synthetic resin having a core (4) and an outer layer (5) covering the core (4), which core (4) is made by injection molding and is in the form of a layer. In other words, the core (4) has a structure different from that of a honeycomb structure. It is therefore respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art would not combine Takeuchi with Carbone, i.e. the combination is not obvious.

The new independent claim 11 recites *inter alia*:

“...a plurality of reinforcing ribs on said top face extending parallel to the direction of compression in the event of a front impact...”

Trabert, Carbone, and Takeuchi fail to disclose such reinforcing ribs on the bumper cross member. Thus, Trabert, Carbone, and Takeuchi do not anticipate the present invention as recited in new claim 11.

New claim 12 recites *inter alia*:

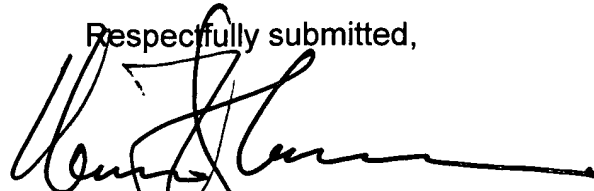
“...at least one bumper cross-member comprising shock absorbers having egg-shaped bulges...”

Trabert, Takeuchi, and Carbone do not disclose nor suggest such a third portion extending from the front of the vehicle, and thus they do not anticipate the present invention as recited in claim 13.

Accordingly, with the foregoing amendments this application is now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is requested.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Date: October 23, 2003


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